GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1701
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL CALAMITIES
Karunakaran Shri P.;Satheedevi Smt. P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from various States including Kerala to make changes in the existing eligibility criteria for assistance under natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken so far by the Government therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (c): Various States Governments have requested for revision of existing items and norms of assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and for the inclusion of some new calamities in the list of defined natural calamities, which are eligible for assistance from CRF/NCCF.

The Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted an Expert Group which comprised of representatives of concerned Central Ministries and some States, to review and revise the extant items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF for the period of the Award of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) i.e. till 2009-10.

In order to facilitate a comprehensive review of the extant items and norms of assistance, the Expert Group sought the views/suggestions of all the States and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments/Organisations. The Expert Group also had series of meetings and consultations with concerned Central Ministries/Departments.

The Expert Group has since submitted its report to the Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The report of the Group is being examined by the Government. Thereafter, the proposal for revision of items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF will be placed before the High Level Committee (HLC), shortly for consideration. After the approval of HLC, the approved items and norms will be notified and circulated to all the States and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments for implementation.